

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**MARIA ELENA RICO-LOPEZ,**

**Defendant.**

**Case No. 12-cr-30242-DRH-4**

**ORDER**

**HERNDON, Chief Judge:**

This matter was referred to United States Magistrate Judge Donald G. Wilkerson for the specific purpose of conducting a change of plea for defendant Maria Elena Rico-Lopez, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, LOCAL RULE 72.1(b)(2) and defendant Rico-Lopez (Doc. 227). Pursuant to FEDERAL RULE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE 11, the change of plea hearing was held on July 10, 2013 (Doc. 225). During the change of plea, defendant Rico-Lopez pled guilty to Counts 1 and 5 of the indictment following a thorough colloquy with Judge Wilkerson. Thereafter, Judge Wilkerson issued a Report and Recommendation (“the Report”) recommending that the Court accept defendant Rico-Lopez’s plea of guilty (Doc. 230).

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B), the parties were allowed fourteen days to file written objections. As of this date, neither party has filed an objection. Therefore, the Court **ADOPTS** the Report in its entirety. Thus, based

on the record in the case, the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge, the consent of the defendant to plead before the magistrate without subsequent objection, it is the finding of the Court in the case of *United States v. Maria Elena Rico-Lopez*, that defendant Rico-Lopez was fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that defendant Rico-Lopez was aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea, and that the plea of guilty was a knowing and voluntary plea supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense. Accordingly, the Court **ACCEPTS** the guilty plea and **ADJUDGES** defendant Maria Elena Rico-Lopez **GUILTY** on the charges in the Indictment. The Court **REMINDS** the parties that this matter is set for sentencing on November 1, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

Digitally signed by  
David R. Herndon  
Date: 2013.07.30  
09:31:00 -05'00'



**Chief Judge**  
**United States District Court**